

**CAPITOL/DOWNTOWN  
CENTRAL CORRIDOR TASK FORCE  
February 6, 2007**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Task Force**

**Members Present:** Jerry Hersman, Kim Hyers, Craig Lien, Paul Mohrbacher, Kristina Smitten

**Task Force**

**Members Absent:** Ta-coumba Aiken, Michael Burns, John Bennett, Larry Englund, Jose Gonzalez, Rhys Ledger, Pat Lamb, Phil Mason, Michael Noble, Steve Schmidt, Susan Rani, Deborah Rathman, Diane Thormodsgard

**Guests Present:** Jim Barton, Robert Clough, Tim Griffin, Jill Hirons, Karen Lyons, Roger Sorbel, Mark Voerding

**Staff Present:** Paul Mandell, Jess Rosenfeld, Joe Spencer, Lucy Thompson

**Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chair Kristina Smitten welcomed task force members, who introduced themselves. Guests were also introduced.

**Review of Meeting Notes from January 23, 2006**

Meeting notes were accepted as written.

Co-chair Smitten requested a clarification of the task force's request for a copy of the report that was prepared on the Bennett Loop for the Ramsey County Rail Authority Board. She was concerned that the request for the report on the Bennett Loop as it was written was not broad enough to include any follow-up reports that may be prepared at Commissioner Bennett's request. When a letter is sent to the Rail Authority Board, it will be worded broadly enough to encompass all relevant reports on the loop proposal.

**Review draft *Central Corridor Development Strategy***

Staff reviewed the draft *Central Corridor Development Strategy* with the task force. The task force will have more thorough comments for Urban Strategies at the joint task force meeting scheduled for February 14, 2007, but there were some preliminary responses to the document.

Connections to the entertainment district may not be emphasized enough. The document could do more to address this issue by:

- Highlighting the importance of wayfinding;
- Relocating the location of the legends on the downtown maps so that they do not cover the entertainment district;
- Including a photomontage of 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Wabasha and Cedar to illustrate the potential for public realm improvements that make the route from the LRT station to the entertainment district more pedestrian friendly;

- Considering a downtown transportation system that combines LRT, buses, and trams to build on the central transportation spine of the Cedar alignment; and
- Emphasizing the “ladder” concept more.

The task force expressed interest in meeting with Public Works staff to discuss their thoughts on how to improve connections between the Cedar route and the western end of downtown.

Co-chair Smitten also asked whether a section could be added to the *Development Strategy* to describe how the document will be used in the future (by whom, etc.).

#### **Identify remaining key issues to be addressed**

Task force members will email staff ([jessica.rosenfeld@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:jessica.rosenfeld@ci.stpaul.mn.us)) by February 23 with a list of draft *Central Corridor Development Strategy* comments/issues to address at our February 27 meeting.

#### **Discussion of what happens after the completion of the *Development Strategy***

Staff briefly presented some of the work items that will be included in “Phase II” of Central Corridor planning work. Phase II will include station area planning, special studies of particular issues (parking, downtown street cross section analyses, etc.), and revisions of official controls (zoning).

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the University Avenue Central Corridor Task Force on Wednesday, **February 14**, 2007, 4:30-7 p.m. at the Central Corridor Resource Center (1080 University Avenue).

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Rosenfeld  
City Planner  
February 9, 2007